

137:14
ms

April 4, 2013
www.mbcb.org

Vol. 137
No. 14

THE Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

'Honored and humbled'

Mississippian to serve as ERLC's next president

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Biloxi native Russell Moore, 41, has been elected as the next president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) in Nashville effective June 1, replacing the retiring Richard Land.

The ERLC's board of trustees approved Moore, currently dean of the school of theology at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., in a special called meeting March 26 at a Nashville hotel. Moore will be the eighth president of the entity charged by Southern Baptists with addressing moral and religious freedom issues.

"I am honored and humbled to be asked to serve Southern Baptists as ERLC president," said Moore, who will be a featured speaker at the 2013 Mississippi Baptist Pastors Conference Oct. 28 at First Church, Jackson.

"I pray for God's grace to lead the ERLC to be a catalyst to connect the agenda of the kingdom of Christ to the cultures of local congregations for the sake of the mission of the Gospel in the world," he said.

Moore's parents, Gary and Renee Moore, still live at the same Oaklawn Road address in the Woolmarket community of Biloxi where their son Russell was raised. Gary Moore is retired from the car business and Renee Moore is a teacher at Woolmarket



Elementary School in Biloxi.

Russell Moore was saved and baptized at the age of 12, and later called to ministry, at Woolmarket Church, where he also met his wife Maria from the Latimer community of Ocean Springs. His grandfather, Herman Russell Moore, once served as pastor of Woolmarket Church.

Russell Moore attended youth events at the former Gulfshore

Assembly in Pass Christian and at Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton. He was also a part of youth mission trips and a choir tour in 1986 that took him to such places as Sledge, Sardis, Vicksburg, and elsewhere.

Moore was licensed to preach and ordained by Bay Vista Church in Biloxi, where he served

see MOORE on p. 7

Group of parents, scoutmasters aims to keep sex, politics out of Boy Scouts

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — A group of parents and scoutmasters has launched OnMyHonor.net, in an effort to keep sex and politics out of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA).

According to CitizenLink, representatives from 13 states have pledged to oppose any revision to Scout policy that would allow open homosexuals to hold positions of leadership. Since its founding in 1910, BSA has traditionally excluded homosexuals because their lifestyle is inconsistent with the Scout oath to be morally straight.

John Stemberger, spokesman for OnMyHonor.

net and president of the Florida Family Policy Council, clarified at a March 23 rally in Orlando that the initiative would allow anyone to participate as Scouts, no matter their sexual orientation — but it would prevent gays and lesbians from holding leadership positions.

"When it comes to young boys, parents have the final say on the issues of sex and politics," Stemberger said.

BSA has been under pressure for more than a

see SCOUTS on p. 4

Federal appeals court agrees to hearing in Hobby Lobby battle

DENVER (BP and local reports) — Hobby Lobby's legal battle against the Obama administration's abortion/contraceptive mandate received a boost March 29 when the full 10th Circuit Court of Appeals agreed to hear the company's case.

Such *en banc* hearings are relatively rare. In November, a federal judge ruled that Hobby Lobby is not exempt from the federal Department of Health and Human Services requirement that abortion-causing drugs must be included in employee health insurance plans. In December, a three-judge panel of the 10th Circuit refused to step in and prevent Hobby Lobby from being impacted by the mandate.

The 10th Circuit said it will expedite oral arguments and will set a date soon. Hobby Lobby, an arts and crafts store, is owned by a Christian family who says the mandate violates their beliefs and their constitutionally protected freedoms. That family, the Greens, also owns Mardel, a Christian bookstore chain that also is part of the suit.

The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty is representing Hobby Lobby and Mardel. "Full court review is reserved only for the most serious legal questions," said Kyle Duncan, general counsel for the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty.

"This case asks whether the First Amendment protects everyone's right to religious freedom, or whether it leaves out religious business owners like the Greens," he said.

Hobby Lobby and Mardel are self-insured and could face millions in fines if a court does not intervene. In January, Hobby Lobby announced it had found a way to avoid for "several months" being penalized by the government. The announcement said the company had "discovered a way to shift the plan year for its employee health insurance, thus postponing the effective date of the mandate for several months." A specific date was not given.

Hobby Lobby is the largest and highest-profile company to file suit against the mandate. The irony for Hobby Lobby is that while its legal losses have captured national attention, other businesses smaller and located in other circuit courts



have been winning.

Of the 20 for-profit lawsuits that have been acted upon by a federal court, 15 of them have seen opponents of the mandate win and the government lose. Among the winners in court is Tyndale Publishers, which prints Bibles and Christian books. There are more than 50 suits against the mandate. The issue likely will end up before the U.S. Supreme Court.

With more than 500 stores in 41 states, Hobby Lobby's owners always have made their faith a central part of their business. Their stores play Christian instrumental music and are closed on Sundays.

Hobby Lobby contributes to Christian organizations and runs full-page ads in newspapers during the Easter and Christmas seasons with Gospel-centered messages.

Inside

Directors

Sunday

Lessons

Editorial

Bibliography

How to

a Christ

Revivals

Home

Just for

Classifieds

2013
SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620
#BAPTIST #ERLC #CAR-RT LOT#4019
#0000 0010 4049#
OCT DTH



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Trial, lawsuits pulling back the curtain

As the trial of alleged abortion butcher Kermit Gosnell proceeds in Philadelphia, Pa., the picture of the abortion industry in America becomes clearer and clearer. It is absolutely not the "safe, rare" medical process that supporters of killing all those babies would have us believe.

Testimony at the trial indicates that Gosnell, a physician by training, either participated in or allowed unskilled employees of his filthy clinic (cat feces on the stairs) to kill full-term babies that were born alive during the abortion process.

Gosnell is charged with seven counts of first-degree murder for infant deaths, and one count of third-degree murder in the demise of a mother who had sought an abortion at the clinic. Eight of the clinic's employees have also been charged, including Gosnell's third wife Pearl who allegedly performed medical procedures and administered dangerous drugs even though her only training was as a cosmetologist.

According to trial testimony, Gosnell bragged during the particularly gruesome execution of a full-term baby at his hands that the child was "big enough to walk to the bus stop." Gosnell and his clinic employees routinely slit the spinal cords of babies born alive during abortion attempts, then cast them aside as they slowly expired.

In addition, Gosnell faces charges that he ran a "pill mill" that illegally dispensed controlled substances to addicts. Investigators allegedly found \$250,000 in cash stuffed in a mattress at his residence.

In a separate case, a woman in Ohio is suing an abortion clinic for not doing its job. According to ohio.com, the on-line version of the Akron Beacon Journal, Ariel Knights was surprised to discover during an emergency room visit that she was still pregnant despite the abortion clinic doctor's assurances that her procedure was complete and routine.

Knights had misgivings when she entered the clinic. "Every seat was full. People were standing," she told the Beacon Journal. "It was pretty much like a slaugh-

terhouse; it was like 'OK, next, next.'" She describes being taken to a small room and told to position herself over a garbage bag. The doctor came in, performed the botched abortion, and left the room.

Knights decided not to have a follow-up abortion. She gave birth to a six-pound girl who is now a healthy toddler, but the damage had been done.

"I can't explain how I felt. It was just a sense of being overwhelmed, wondering what happened to the baby, wondering what's happening to me and what did [the clinic] think they did," she told the Beacon Journal. "It was just constant stress."

"From Ariel's description, you can see how poorly the clinic is run and how different it is from any other medical procedure that's done in our country," Knights' attorney, Jim Gutbrod, told the Beacon Journal. "The way they do things is horrendous."

Lastly, don't forget Mississippi's own Jackson Women's Health Organization, owned by the same person who had her Birmingham abortion clinic closed down after the State of Alabama found a laundry list of health and record-keeping violations.

In addition, a March 26 article on al.com indicates that Diane Derzis, who owns the Jackson abortion clinic, is a defendant in a civil suit filed by Alabama health authorities that accuses her and other defendants of continuing to perform abortions at the Birmingham clinic even though the clinic license had been surrendered some time ago.

These are the types of bottom feeders who populate the abortion industry. Regulations and licenses, in place to protect the public, mean nothing to them. These are the filthy, ragged clinics where women must position themselves over garbage bags. These are the victims of botched abortions who are physically and emotionally scarred for life — if they survive this "safe, rare" procedure. Then there are the "fetuses" who have no chance of survival, even if born alive.

This is America today. Come soon, Lord Jesus, before more babies have to die.

Facing the giants in our own lives

There's something about giants that intrigues us, whether we're talking about movies and television shows, or books like Gulliver's Travels, or fairy tales like Jack and the Beanstalk.

In popular stories, these giants are clearly symbols of our own challenges in life. Sometimes we seem so small in the face of adversity that our problems can appear giant-sized. We need to believe we can slay the giants in our lives.

You don't need sci-fi movies for that. The Bible will do just fine, thank you. It's full of giants, and the giants of Scripture aren't supernatural monsters or science fiction images. There were ancient tribes of humans who were, well, big. Goliath was nine feet tall.

The Bible introduces us to him in the Valley of Elah, taunting the armies of Israel and defying the people of the living God. Everything about him was intimidating. He was a champion of evil, and day after day he challenged the Israelites: "Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me."

King Saul was "dismayed and greatly afraid" (1 Samuel 17:11), and he made the mistake of comparing himself with the giant instead of comparing the giant with God. Arriving on the scene, the young shepherd David sized up the situation, compared the giant with God, and determined with God's help, he could defeat Goliath.

Goliath represents all the giants we face in our lives today. We need to face the fact that those giants taunt us today just as in ancient times.

■ The giant of fear. Advice columnist Ann Landers was asked if a common denominator linked the letters she received, and she said that the one overriding theme was fear. People are afraid of what is happening, what might happen, what will happen, and the effects of it all. With God we can overcome the giant of fear.

■ The giant of discouragement. Due to the recent economic problems in our nation, many people have encountered the giant of discouragement. We need to resist the intrusion this giant presents to our peace of mind, and instead look to God for consolation and provision.

■ The giant of loneliness. On every side we see lonely senior citizens, lonely singles, lonely spouses, lonely survivors, lonely sufferers, and lonely servants of God. The giant of loneliness taunts many people each day, but God comforts and relieves the lonely.

■ The giant of worry. Physician Charles



Guest opinion
with David Jeremiah

Mayo called worry the "disease of doubt" that can affect the circulation, the heart, the glands, and the whole nervous system. Perhaps you're battling this Goliath right now.

■ The giant of guilt. Genuine guilt is an honest friend that leads us to the blood of Christ, but there are two deadly kinds of guilt: lingering guilt over sins long ago confessed and nailed to the cross of Jesus, and false guilt over things for which we bear no responsibility. These are giants to be confronted and conquered by the power of the blood of Christ.

■ The giant of temptation. Too many times during my ministry, I've seen how the giant of temptation can, in only a few moments, tear down a reputation that it's taken a lifetime to build. We have to learn to consistently and constantly resist this enemy. He has no power over us unless we yield to his demands.

There are many others. Goliath has a lot of kid brothers who taunt us — the giants of anger, resentment, doubt, procrastination, failure, and jealousy. Are any of these enemies in your personal Valley of Elah right now?

We're living in the land of the giants. We're on tough terrain. Like most giants, Goliath was a bully who thought he was invincible, but whose demise was inevitable. He thought he was facing a shepherd boy, but he was really nose-to-nose with that shepherd boy's Almighty God.

If God is for us, who can be against us? That's why it's time to stop comparing ourselves with the giants, and start comparing the giants with God.

Editor's note: Jeremiah is the founder and host of Turning Point for God and senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Ca. For more information, visit www.DavidJeremiah.org. His commentary appears here courtesy of Baptist Press.

THE BaptistRecord

Editor
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

Associate Editor
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

Layout/Design
Megan Young
myoung@mbcb.org

Advertising
Emily Jones
ejones@mbcb.org

Circulation Manager
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

Editor Emeritus
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Dwayne Parker, Flora Paul Sims, Pontotoc
Barry Burris, Terry Carl White, Meridian
Billie Buckley, Petal
Russell Mord, Sturgis

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and address changes to: The Editor, Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org



VOLUME 137 • NUMBER 14 • ISSN 0005-5778

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

Miss. Baptist physician followed winding road to pediatric HIV cure

JACKSON, Miss. (BP and local reports) — Hannah Gay, the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) doctor newly noted for curing a Mississippi baby of HIV, calls her decision to specialize in pediatric AIDS "evidence of divine humor."

She entered the specialty in 1994 initially because it allowed her to work part-time as a physician and spend time with her husband Paul and their four small children. The family had returned to Mississippi after the couple served six years as Baptist workers in the Horn of Africa.

Had the position been full-time, Gay said, she would not have taken it. "The part-time position that was open at that time here at University Medical Center was to help with the HIV clinic. So, I took it for that reason."

"Unfortunately, it remained part-time work for only about two months and then it became super full-time work, but I enjoyed it. I was not at all trained in HIV. When I was in medical school and residency, pediatric HIV didn't exist in our state. I was not trained in it and ...didn't choose it, but apparently God chose me for it."

The HIV specialist and associate professor of pediatric infectious diseases at University Medical Center, located in Jackson, said faith has been the defining factor in her life.

"My faith affects everything I do. It defines who I am," she said. "It is actually everything I do and that includes my medical career, and certainly it's the love of Christ that I'm passing on to these children. It's not anything from myself; it comes from my faith."

Gay made international headlines in March for achieving a "functional cure" of a baby born with HIV, a medical breakthrough that could lead to the elimination of the virus in children.

As a "functional cure," the viral presence is undetectable by standard tests but detectable by ultrasensitive methods in the child, who is now two years old. In a "sterilizing cure," all viral traces would be completely eradicated from the body, according to medical terminology.

Gay, who directs Bible Drill and is involved in other ministries with her husband Paul at Trace Ridge Church in suburban Ridgeland, promotes prevention as the best medicine and encourages churches to play an active role in achieving that goal.

"Our social consciousness needs to be centered on the Gospel and how the Gospel and Christ living in us can educate our lifestyle choices, and that will be the prevention of not only HIV but a whole host of other human suffering," Gay said.

"Christians and churches need to be engaged in their communities with education about Christ."

Gay grew up in a Southern Baptist church, was exposed to Woman's Missionary Union missions education while still in her mother's womb, she said, and studied

missions from an early age, participating in the Sonbeams children's ministry, Girls in Action, and Young Women's Auxiliary.

"It was just sort of a part of my training. I guess, that when I got into my teen years and started asking the Lord, 'OK, what do You want to do with me,' that's where He pointed me," she said of her career in pediatrics, "and I pursued it from there."

Having completed a pediatric residency at UMMC, she went to Africa in 1987 with the intention of teaching at a medical school there.

"When I got there, circumstances made it where I never actually taught in medical school, but that's what I went to do. When we arrived in the country, there was an ongoing civil war and before we finished language school they had closed the pediatric wards of the teaching hospital due to the civil war," Gay recounted.

"Within very short order after that, they closed the medical school due to the civil war, and so I never actually taught in the medical school but I... had an informal clinic for mission employees and their families, basically on my front porch."

The family returned to Mississippi in 1993 to provide a more challenging education for their children, who were academically gifted and ranged in age from three to 10 years.

"[We] just decided to stay here long enough to get our children educated with the hopes we would be able to go back to the mission field after that," she said, "but as time would have it, I was found to have arthritis and started on medications that caused suppression of my immune system, and so the Horn of Africa was not a good place for me to be living with that kind of immune suppression."

Gay has long advocated for early, aggressive antiretroviral treatment of babies born to HIV-infected mothers. She achieved the functional cure in a baby whose mother received no prenatal care and was diagnosed with HIV during labor.

Gay began the baby on an aggressive three-drug therapy at birth, versus the conventional one-drug treatment, and continued through 18 months of age when the mother stopped bringing the child in for checkups.

"After about 18 months of age, for the next five months, she didn't return to clinic and when she did return to clinic then at 23 months, her mom admitted that she had not been giving the medicines," Gay said.

Surprised when tests revealed no return of the virus, Gay consulted colleagues at the University of Massachusetts Medical

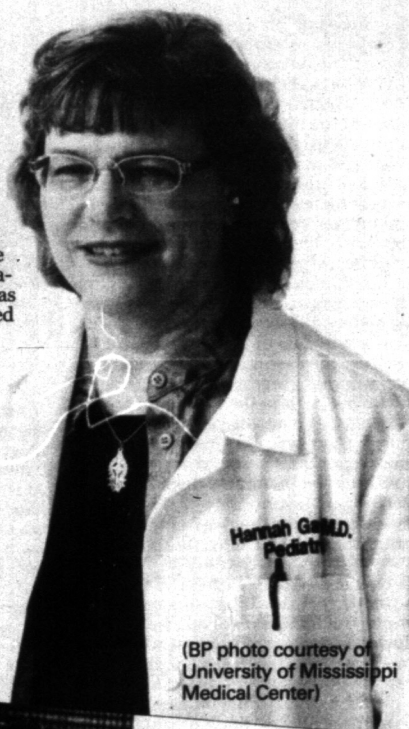
School and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, who confirmed the functional cure.

"The definition of functional cure is not real precise," Gay said, "but basically what we have is a child who has been off of medication for a prolonged period now without return of replicating virus."

Gay said she continues to be drawn to pediatrics to help children begin making healthy choices early in life. "To have the opportunity to start teaching healthy lifestyle choices and helping them make the right choices from the beginning is rewarding, as opposed to trying to treat things that have been building up over the years from poor choices."

"I love working with the babies who are, for the most part, innocent. Sometimes that's sad, but at least I'm not faced with someone who's angry over something of their own making."

Gay said she intends to continue to focus on prevention as medical science seeks to replicate the functional cure in other victims. "We work very hard to make sure that we identify as many women as possible who are HIV-infected during pregnancy and treat those women during the pregnancy," she noted. "If we can do that, we can prevent almost every case of transmission from mother to infant."



(BP photo courtesy of University of Mississippi Medical Center)



(TOP RIGHT) Hannah Gay, the University of Mississippi Medical Center pediatrician who functionally cured a baby of HIV, is shown in 1988 during her time as a Baptist representative in the Horn of Africa. There, she treated patients in a makeshift clinic at her home after a civil war led officials to close the medical center where she had planned to work. (BP photo courtesy of Joanna Pinneo); **(BOTTOM RIGHT)** Hannah Gay holds a baby in Ethiopia in the 1980s during her time as a Baptist health care worker there. Gay returned to the United States in 1994 and accepted a position at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson that recently led to her achieving a functional cure of an HIV-infected baby. (BP photo courtesy of Joanna Pinneo); **(LEFT)** The Mississippi Legislature recently honored Hannah Gay (center), University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) associate professor of pediatrics, at the Mississippi Capitol in Jackson for functionally curing a child infected with HIV. James Keeton (left), UMMC vice chancellor for health affairs, and Mississippi House of Representatives Speaker Philip Gunn presented a resolution March 19 to honor Gay, which was signed by Gunn and Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves on behalf of the Mississippi Senate. (BP photo courtesy of University of Mississippi Medical Center)

It was a cool morning in the latter days of the winter season and almost on the front edge of spring. I was driving to preach at a church in the Delta. Though the Delta of Mississippi is one of the most agricultural areas in the world, that transitional period it was still gray and barren. The long stretches of Delta flatland looked dead indeed, lifeless, hopeless, and empty. The further I drove the more I thought about how like church life it was. There are times when the decisions may be few and many times there may be none. There seems to be very little energy in the congregation and the worship services are lifeless almost to the point that we think they are meaningless. You may wonder if anything will change.

Having been in the Delta and around the Delta, I knew differently. For even though there were no green sprouts coming out of the ground and the trees were still just seemingly dead limbs reaching up toward the sky, I knew that it would not stay that way. I knew three things that would change the whole landscape in the weeks ahead.

The first thing I knew is there is preparation. What appeared to be empty and lifeless dirt had already been plowed and prepared so that when the time was right, the days changed, the warmth of the sun did its work, and the heavens gave rain all would be ready for planting. The wise and faithful planters in the Delta do not sit just waiting



Planting Time

for something to happen. They prepare the ground knowing that God in His marvelous, creative way will provide for a new day, new growth, and new life. At times, when we experience nothing happening we wonder, worry, and even question if God is ever going to do a work again. Well, we can have confidence in Him. He needs to have confidence in us that we will stay faithful and prepare for the work He wants to do in us and in our churches.

A second thing that I knew is that there is anticipation. When the time is right, farmers will be planting millions of seed in the ground and they will begin to anticipate the harvest long before germination takes

place. Small tender leaves begin to pop up through the soil. Planting is not an end in itself. It is the early step with a great anticipation that something is going to happen.

If a farmer were to take on the attitude that sometimes we do, they would simply be discouraged and possibly choose to do nothing since life seems so bleak. But as you well know, that is not what they do. They enter into the phase of planting with great anticipation that there are going to be millions of great harvest possibilities ahead. Sure between planting and harvesting there is work to be done. There are struggles and uncertainties. There is the possibility of drought or floods, but

undeterred they are pushed forward by the anticipation of the abundance that God can provide.

A final thought that I knew was true is that there is participation. If the farmer does not get up early, have his equipment ready to go, put the seed in the ground, and do all that can be done to nurture and protect the crop by fighting the weeds and the bugs, and whatever other problems and pestilence may come, nothing will ever happen. Participation is required. Do you want to see the Lord do something wonderful, meaningful, and of eternal value in your church? Then make yourself available to participate. Long before your faith becomes sight do what He wants you to do so that He can do in you what He wants to do.

The great Apostle Paul told the first century believers, "And let us not become weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Gal. 6:9). He knew what I knew that the same roads that I drove over that cool, gray Sunday morning would be surrounded by green growth, excitement, new hopes, and possibilities if I drove through there just a few weeks later. Give God your hands, your heart, your life, and your labor. Stay faithful and watch to see what He will do in the days just ahead.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

SCOUTS

cont. from p. 1

decade from activists who want open homosexuals in leadership. Last year, homosexual activist groups convinced several corporations, including UPS and Intel, to cease funding BSA after BSA's board members unanimously affirmed traditional leadership policies at their annual meeting.

That pressured BSA to announce its willingness to reconsider revising the 100-year-old policy, but the announcement met considerable opposition from parents and religious leaders including leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

Members of the SBC Executive Committee warned in a resolution in February that changing the policy would "place the Boy Scouts organization at odds with a consistent biblical worldview on matters of human sexuality."

Earlier in the month, BSA's executive board announced it wouldn't make a final decision on the matter until May. In the meantime, grassroots efforts such as OnMyHonor.net are rallying to raise support for the traditional

policy. They contend changing the policy would result in a decrease in membership, a rise in sexual misconduct, and overt pro-homosexuality political activism.

During OnMyHonor's March 23 event, former U.S. Congressman Richard T. Schulze of Pennsylvania, a Republican, urged BSA board members to uphold tradition, asking, "What kind of a message are we sending to our young

people if the very leaders who are teaching Boy Scouts to be brave, cannot even find the courage to stand firm, and avoid caving to peer pressure from Hollywood and political activists?"

Editor's note: This story first appeared in WORLD News Service, an affiliate of WORLD magazine (www.worldmag.com). Used by permission.

"Hearing is Believing"

For a **FREE** consultation call
Jackson 1-800-844-1200 or Hattiesburg 1-800-844-5821
or go online at www.audioservices.org

Professional Sound
System Design and
Installation
Church / School / Commercial

audio SERVICES
A DIVISION OF MISSISSIPPI MUSIC INCORPORATED

BROOKS MINISTRY INSURANCE

Mike Brooks
Agency Principal

an authorized agency of
Brotherhood Mutual
Insurance Company

Call today for a free quote **888.908.3662**
or email: mike@brooksmistryinsurance.com

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)
If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

KING CONSTRUCTORS, LLC GENERAL CONTRACTORS

We have over 30 years experience in pre-engineered metal buildings. Design build with stamped architect drawings available in house.

Let us build your sanctuary or family life center.

Free estimates and references available upon request!

Authorized Gulf States Dealer
(662) 779-0000

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 4, 2013

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

2013 SENIOR DAY RETREATS

12:30-5:30 p.m.

Harrisburg BC, Tupelo

May 21

Preacher:

Jim Futral, MBCB

FBC, Vicksburg

May 23

Preacher:

Argile Smith, Pineview, La.

FBC, Picayune

May 30

Preacher:

Clarence Cooper, Brandon BC

Registration Cost: \$5 at the door or one week before the registration date to receive the gift bag. Mail Registration to: **MBCB Conference Office, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530** or call Jo at **800-748-1651, ext. 292**

Pastor MINISTER OF EDUCATION SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR

WORKING TOGETHER...
GROWING STRONG
CHURCHES

May 20, FBC, New Albany
May 21, FBC, Columbia
6 p.m. Dinner
7-9 p.m. Conference

Conference

For more information
contact Carolyn Day
1-800-748-1651, ext. 291
or 601-292-3291
cday@mbcb.org



MONDAY, APRIL 29

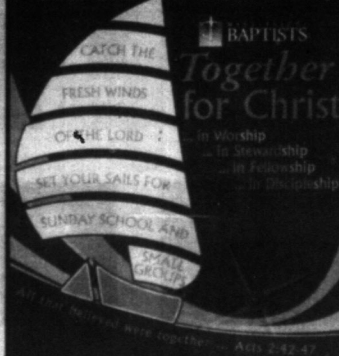
Hardy Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg
Two services: 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Glenn Shows, gshows@mbcb.org
Daniel Hall, dhall@mbcb.org
Ken Hopkins, khopkins@hardysbc.net
(601-544-1794)

DON'T MISS

THE BOAT



SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SMALL GROUP TRAINING

KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND PASTOR/GENERAL CONFERENCE LEADER:

ALLAN TAYLOR

RIDGECREST BAPTIST CHURCH, MADISON

JULY 13, 2013 • 8:30 - NOON

SPONSORED BY THE SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT OF THE
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US AT 1-800-748-1651, EXT. 291, OR 601-292-3291.



Emily Akers
NECC
Florida



Sarah Albarado
JCJC
Australia



Tate Allen
SMCC
Ohio



Ryan Anderson
MSU
Massachusetts



Briana Andrews
SMCC
Canada



Thomas Arrington
MSU
Philippines



Ben Austin
WCU
Alaska



Kayla Bailey
JCJC
Moldova



Krista Bailey
MSU
Indiana



Lauren Calvert
UM
Ireland



Lindsey Calvert
MC
East Asia



West Carpenter
MSU
Philippines



Lizzy Carr
MC
Arizona



Brooke Cartwright
SMCC
Massachusetts



Chelsey Causey
MSU
California



Andrew Chesten
BMC
Dominican Republic



Anna Chrestman
MSU
Illinois



Aryn Clark
UM
Alaska



Tori Driscoll
COJIN
Oklahoma



Destinie Duckworth
NECC
Mexico



Abi Earnhart
JCJC
Moldova



Desmond Edmonson
PRCC
Indiana



Kandace Estes
MUW
California



Hanna Finley
MC
South Korea



Mia Florescu
JCJC
Moldova



Lindsey Foley
UM
Oklahoma



Heather Ford
HINDS
Philippines



Emily Graham
BMC
Maine



Rachael Greene
USM
Washington



Matt Gully
WCU
Hawaii



Rebecca Hankins
UM
Arizona



Anna Irwin
DSU
California



Amber Izzard
MC
Thailand



Izzy Izzard
MC
Philippines



Walker Jackson
MSU
United Kingdom



Brock Langley
JCJC
Moldova



Chastity Lowe
USM
California



Daniel Margheim
WCU
Philippines



Tanner Marquis
UM
Africa



Andrew McNair
GCCC
C. Oklahoma



Jordan Meek
COJIN
Indiana



Hannah Michlink
JCJC
Moldova



Cady Mills
SMCC
Africa/Mid East



Gracie Robinson
NECC
Oklahoma



Nathan Rodgers
BMC
Alaska



Seth Roys
ICC
Australia



Ben Sanford
PRCC
Texas



Jedd Mook
COJIN
Oklahoma



John Montgomery
COJIN
Florida



Jordan Moore
USM
New Mexico



Matthew Munin
MSU
Massachusetts



Adriana Olvera
NWCC
California



Kayla Scharfenstein
USM
New Mexico



Ellen Jo Seals
MC
Canada



Andrew Shesly
MC
Tennessee



Colton Smith
SMCC
Texas



Luke Smith
MSU
South Asia



Jamie Wagner
BMC
Illinois



Jamie Widdow
USM
Massachusetts



Hayden White
UM
Moldova



Kayleigh White
BMC
Philippines



Christina W
UM
Maine

MISSISSIPPI SUMMER MIS



o Bailey
MSU
diana



Nate Ball
MSU
United Kingdom



Mary Kate Barthel
MC
Mexico



Jordan Berry
MC
Florida



Hagen Bray
UM
Philippines



Mary Bullard
JCJC
Ohio



Melissa Bulman
HINDS
Philippines



Brittney Burken
BMC
Japan



M'Kayla Butler
HINDS
Indiana



Mary Kathryn Byrd
ICC
Alaska



er Clark
JA
aska



Cassandra Cobb
MSU
South Korea



Jamie Coleman
BMC
California



Kendra Conley
HINDS
Illinois



Ashley Crane
MC
Mexico



Brandon Crow
WCU
Texas



Kelsey Danner
NWCC
Washington



Ashleigh Davis
USM
Massachusetts



Jameson Davis
BMC
United Kingdom



Gabe Dence
BMC
California



er Ford
HDS
ippines



Haley Forsythe
BMC
Illinois



Hannah Forsythe
BMC
Texas



Chris Foster
MSU
Thailand



Maya Fountain
USM
Africa



Courtney Freeman
WCU
Texas



Brandon Garneau
USM
New Mexico



Miriam Garcia
WCU
Italy



Stefanie George
MSU
Washington



Jackie Giles
MSU
Florida

2013 MISSISSIPPI BSU MISSIONARIES



Jillian Harris
UM
New York



Joshua Haymes
WCU
Philippines



Alaina Hunter
BMC
Texas



Andrew Irwin
UM
California



Josh Jarriel
MSU
Africa



Carter Kittrell
SMCC
Florida



Mandy Lane
BMC
Florida



Whitney Lanford
DSU
South Asia



Beth Ann McCormick
MC
Oklahoma



Jesse McDaniel
SMCC
Arizona



Taylor McGill
MSU
Canada



Lori McMorrough
DSU
Canada



o Olvera
VCC
lornia



Kristi Ralston
MC
Philippines



LeoAnn Randol
COJN
Texas



Adam Rawls
JCJC
Illinois



Audrey Reed
MC
East Asia



Jessica Reeder
NWCC
Texas



Nathan Reynolds
MSU
United Kingdom



Will Richardson
SMCC
Arizona



Danielle Rimes
SMCC
Texas



Holy Rootson
SMCC
California



Smith
SU
n Asia



Shan Smith
HINDS
Texas



Matthew Sommerman
MSU
East Asia



Danielle Spiers
PRCC
Ohio



Emelia Strickland
ICC
Florida



Wayan Sugiantoro
HINDS
Illinois



Emily Sullivan
MSU
Texas



Erin Traylor
JCJC
Texas



Heather Varner
GCCC
California



Daniel Waddell
HINDS
Ohio



Christina Windom
UM
Maine



Josh Wood
ICC
Florida



Austin Woodward
HINDS
Canada



Maghan Woodworth
BMC
New Mexico



Jeremy Wooten
MC
Philippines

Pray this day for...

April 5 - April 18, 2013

"Humble yourselves therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you..."

1 Peter 5:6

Pray for: **Nickolee* & Steven* Roberts**, missionaries to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in the U.S. through church planting and church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for a team of 16 from **Heucks Retreat BC, Brookhaven**, going to Guatemala to rebuild and minister.

Pray for: **Marty* & Mary* Roberts**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples in the U.S. through strategy coordination, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Ruth* & Steven* Robertson**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in the U.S. through financial administration, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Burton* & Margaret Schmitz**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Senegal through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **George and Geraldine* Smith**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Uganda through church planting and church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas* Smith**, missionary ministering to American Peoples in Peru through regional office support.

Pray for: **Janna* Smith**, IMB missionary ministering to American Peoples in Mexico through church planting.

Pray for: **Lane* Vance**, IMB missionary ministering to European Peoples in France through evangelism.

Pray for: **David* and Regina* White**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the U.S. through church planting, church and community outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Floyd and Sylvia* Wingo**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Brazil through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Paul and Donna* Worsham**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Mexico through church planting, church and home outreach evangelism.

*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.



Awards Banquet and WORKSHOPS

May 3-4, 2013
First Baptist Church
Ridgeland, Miss.

Banquet and Workshop:

- Banquet and workshop registration deadline is April 19, 2013
- Registration for all activities is \$30 per person
- Friday Awards Banquet only or Saturday Workshop only is \$25 per person

For more information contact 1-800-748-1651, ext. 378 or 601-292-3378.



2013 STATE Senior ADULT RALLY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2013
RIDGECREST BAPTIST CHURCH, MADISON
(601-853-1090, EXT. 35)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE DISCIPLESHIP DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD AT 601-292-3284

6-3-04
MISS MARGARET WINGO
 Parents: Floyd & Sylvia
 American Peoples

6/3/09
MR. NOAH
 Parents: D & L
 Restricted

6-15-05
MR. ETHAN EPPS
 Parents: Aaron & Tiffany
 American Peoples

6-17-02
MISS IZZY J
 Parents: D & D
 Southern European People Group

6-17-95
MR. SETH D.
 Parents: P & D
 European Peoples

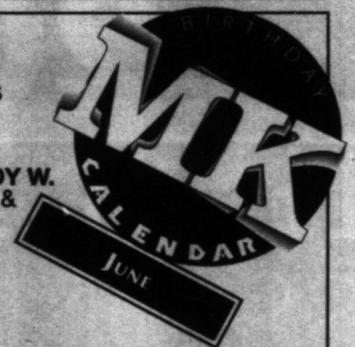
Encourage an MK with a card!

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: **MBCB WMU MK Birthdays**, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU.

Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to **MS WMU**.

Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.



HOUSE TOPS

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242

www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

Mrs. Margaret Erwin
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart V. Allen
Edward & Joy Harris
Mr. & Mrs. Steven E. Newman
John & Mary Hobbs
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart V. Allen
Mrs. Dolly Hooper
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart V. Allen
Robert & Allison Kittrell
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart V. Allen
Mrs. Charlene Manning
Mrs. Manning's 1st Gr Class, Madison Ave Elem
Ms. Beth Morrow
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Morrow
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Parish
Mr. J. V. Parker
Ms. Alsa Pate
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart V. Allen
Ms. Dot Pate
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart V. Allen
Mr. and Mrs. Will Polk
Ms. Lindsey Wynne
Judge & Mrs. Keith Starrett
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Russell
Mr. and Mrs. Lent Jr. Thomas
Ms. Lindsey Wynne
Ms. Mildred Warren
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart V. Allen
Ms. Ruth Whitt
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart V. Allen

Dr. Russell Bush
Mrs. Sarah P. Dantin
Ruth Calhoun
Ms. Martha Till
Hubert L. Carpenter
Conway BC
Mr. Thomas Jr. Causey
Mrs. Lucille H. Harris
Ben Chapman
Mrs. James A. Peoples
Mr. Carroll Chapman
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Wood
Margaret Hoss Clark
Ms. Ann Davis and Family
Bobby Cox
Mr. & Mrs. Alton Brewer
Mr. Lawrence Daggett
Dr. & Mrs. James H. May
Juanita Daves
Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Webb
Betty Davis
Ms. Anne Wood
Mr. Charles Duncan
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie L. Manton
Bennie Dyess
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Revette
Mr. Tracy Dyess
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie L. Manton
Jean Earhart
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bullard
Katherine Easterling
Mr. & Mrs. Maxwell R. Crausby
Shirley Edwards
Mr. & Mrs. Alton Brewer
Mrs. Verna Ree Egger
Mrs. Dot G. Griffin
Rev. Leon Emery
Dr. & Mrs. James H. May
Kay Ferguson
Ms. Cathy J. McComb
Mr. Augustus (Gus) Fiongos
Jack's Family
Kellie's Family
Lorraine's Family
Barbara's Family
Steve's Family
Judy's Family
Bob's Family
Edna Earle's Family
Mrs. Dot Fleming
Hon. & Mrs. Jess H. Dickinson
Mary E. Fortenberry
Stonewall BC
Jerry Fry
Mr. & Mrs. Abner E. Tuggle
Geneva Gardner
Mr. Bobby C. Gardner

JANUARY 1-15, 2013

MEMORIALS

Mr. Carter Allen
Frances & Rich Defenbaugh and Family
Sarah Byrne Allgood
Mr. & Mrs. James Crosby
Mary Ann Anderson
Paul, Alice & Suzanne Buford
Mrs. Nell Armstrong
Mrs. Sally M. Watts
Frances Collins Autry
Mrs. Clara Land
Ms. Elsie U. Marks
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Grimm
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Siquefield
Tony Bales
Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie E. McNair
Geraldine Bender
Stanton BC
Larry Boggs
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Harris
Sonya Braswell
Stanton BC
Mr. Hershel Breland
Mr. & Mrs. Reese Douglas
Toni Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Jack McRee
Rev. Thomas Bruce
Rev. & Mrs. Jimmy Breland
Mrs. Ruth Bryant
Stanton BC
Jeanette P. Bryson
Ms. Marie S. Graham

Dr. Rebecca Sue Wilkie
Mr. & Mrs. Stanford E. Wilkie
Dr. Rebecca Sue Wilkie
Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Wilkinson
Mr. & Mrs. Greg L. Wilkinson
Mr. A. B. Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Greg L. Wilkinson
Mr. Arthur Williams
Dr. & Mrs. Victor L. Walsh
Pete Williams
Ann Southerland
Charlie Allen Williamson
Mr. & Mrs. Joe B. Boggan
Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Wilson
Dr. Rebecca Sue Wilkie
Mr. Joey Winstead
Dr. & Mrs. J. K. Perry
Mrs. Lillian Wiseman
Mrs. Wilma Johnson
Mary Ellen Woodward
Tinsley BC
Bennie H. Wright
Dr. & Mrs. Rory Lee

JANUARY 1-15, 2013

HONORS

Mrs. Mamie Adams
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart V. Allen
Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Danna
Mr. Johnny Hobbs
Bobby & Linda Douglas
Mr. Johnny Hobbs
Mr. Richard Tuberville
Mr. & Mrs. Greg L. Wilkinson
Barbara Turnage
Herman & Sharon Dungan
Alisha Williamson Voge
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Coward
Karen Waldrop
Charlotte & Joe Steele
Harriett Walker
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Palmer
Mr. Leroy Wall
Mr. & Mrs. Greg L. Wilkinson
Mr. Ragan Walters
Mr. Charles A. Touchstone
Mr. Haughey Wallace
Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Henderson
Max Watson
Mrs. W. W. (Rickey) Moore
Jana Ward Webb
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Haddox
Mrs. Charles (Kathy) Webster
Mr. & Mrs. Terry E. Champion
Chase Wilbanks
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Wilbanks
Mr. Danny Wilkie
Dr. Rebecca Sue Wilkie
Robert E. Wilkie

Partner with The Baptist Children's Village for VBS!



There are three ways your church can partner with The Baptist Children's Village this year during Vacation Bible School.

1

Order FREE VBS Nametags.

The Baptist Children's Village is again offering free nametags. This year the nametags are reversible and relevant for either of the LifeWay curriculums. You can see a picture of the VBS nametag above. They have two pre-punched holes for you to easily put a string in each.

2

Schedule a Speaker.

The mission of The Baptist Children's Village certainly does resonate with children and it is a joy for us to spend time talking about how God can use them to reach other children.

3

Plan a Mission Project benefiting The Baptist Children's Village.

Here are a couple ideas.

Collect Kids' Favorites

- Ketchup
- Hamburger Helper
- Peanut Butter/Jelly

Collect Household Essentials

- Garbage bags (large & kitchen size)
- Paper Towels
- Bathroom Tissue

Return this card or contact us by Tuesday, April 30, 2013 to order your FREE nametags, to schedule a speaker and/or plan a mission project.

The dates for our VBS are: ____/____/____ through ____/____/____

Please send me ____ free VBS nametags.

Our theme is: ☐ Colossal Coaster World ☐ Jungle Jamb

I would like to schedule a speaker for our: ☐ Mission Study Time ☐ Kickoff ☐ Commencement
Date: ____/____/____ Time: ____

We would like our mission project to be for The BCV

☐ Kids Favorites ☐ Household Essentials ☐ I need pickup ☐ I will deliver

Name _____ Church's Name _____
Address _____ City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____

For questions contact Celeste Cade at 601.952.2422 or ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com

Pursue Spiritual Gain • 1 Timothy 6:3-19

Americans are wealthy. You may think you are not but you are. The average salary in America is just over \$42,000 per year, while 80% of the world's average full-time income is about \$2,000 per year. Even in Mississippi, the poorest state in the Union, it is over \$36,000 per year. That means that a person at the poverty level in America, or \$11,496 for one person, earns almost six times the lower 80% of the world. That counts those who work. When you count everyone whether they work or not, our per capita in America is \$11,536, while the lowest 80% of the planet averages \$846 per capita.

We build houses with rooms for people who don't live with us and may or may not come to see us. We call these guest rooms. We build small houses for our cars so they don't have to be out in the weather. The UN Commission on Human Rights in 2005 estimated 100 million people worldwide are homeless while many of our cars sleep indoors. We are indeed wealthy.

Yet we crave more. We measure success by what the neighbors have that we don't, where we haven't been or what we desire. "If I could just go to Europe for vacation, I'll be happy." Or, "If I just had a new car and a larger flat screen TV like my neighbors', my life would be complete."

1 Timothy 6:6 reads, "But godliness with contentment is a great gain." CSB. Serving the Lord includes being content with where we are and what we have. I heard Andy Stanley say once, "Greed is the assumption that what you have is all for your own consumption."

Our Scripture passage this week reads in vv 9-10, "those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains." CSB.

In Mark 4:18-19 Jesus explained to the disciples His parable of the sower. He described the seed sown among thorns. He said these hear the word, "but the worries of this age, the seduction of wealth, and the desires for other things enter in and choke

the word, and it becomes unfruitful." CSB. For too many believers, seeking wealth replaced seeking the Lord and His will.

Paul encouraged Timothy to seek righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, "So don't worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For the idolaters eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you," Matthew 6:31-33 CSB.

Jesus said that if we seek His kingdom, instead of seeking to build our own, He will meet our needs. That, coupled with Paul's advice to Timothy about contentment, paints a picture of a godly person of any income level. Ecclesiastes 5:10 teaches, "The one who loves money is never satisfied with money, and whoever loves wealth

is never satisfied with income."

Contentment does not mean do not work, for Paul already taught Timothy that the one who does not provide for his family had denied the faith and is worse than an infidel (1 Timothy 5:8 CSB). We are told to work and to do good with the proceeds.

Paul told Timothy in verse 12 to fight the good fight for the faith and to teach the wealthy to depend on the Lord and not the uncertainty of wealth. While Jesus sent us to "preach the gospel to every creature," Mark 16:15 KJV, we are fighting the fight for more and more. The good fight is for the Kingdom of God and not our personal kingdom. Will your kingdom last? What do you have that belonged to your great-great-grandparents? Some old letters? An old watch that probably doesn't work? If Jesus does not return soon, what will your great-great-grandchildren have that was yours? May they have a legacy of one who sought the Kingdom of God. Verse 16 in our Lesson's passage reminds us that God alone has immortality. We will leave it all behind and only what's done for Christ will count on the scales of eternity.

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon.



Explore the Bible
with Rick Henson

Called to Holiness • Exodus 19:1-6, 10-14, 16-19

It's 7:00 Sunday morning. Fred and Freda Frantic's alarm clock jars the couple awake. They are so not ready to greet the day, after going to a late movie the night before and arriving home after midnight. With a groan, their weary feet hit the floor. Time to get the Sunday-morning rush hour under way; they've both got a class to teach and they need to get things together and look over their lessons. Since their preschoolers were up late at Grandma's, they decide to let them sleep in a bit.

An hour passes, and Freda can't find her car keys. The kids are up and cranky from not getting enough rest. The frustrated parents get into a tiff, and then bark at the dawdling kids. As they race to get ready, the youngest knocks over his chocolate milk, spilling it on himself and Frank. After tending to this fiasco, the Frantic family scrambles into the car and heads for church, arriving late for their classes. A question: is this couple apt to experience God today?

This lesson introduces a four-session series on God's holiness. Today, we'll examine God's call to holy living. Perhaps your Sunday mornings resemble the one described above. If we consider what happens when God, in all His glory and holiness, shows up, it might change the way we prepare for Sunday (or any other day for that matter).

Exodus 19 precedes the giving of the Ten

Commandments (chapter 20). This week's Scripture contains dialogue between Moses and God, showing what the sovereign Lord expected of His people. Even though God's authoritative power is preeminent in these verses, we sense His tender affection for the Israelites: "If you will listen obediently to what I say and keep my covenant, out of all peoples you'll be my special treasure. The whole Earth is mine to choose from, but you're special: a kingdom of priests, a holy nation" (vss. 5-6, MSG). Note the two parts of this covenant relationship: the peoples' obedience and God's special care.

The theme of personal holiness is not unique to the Old Testament; its fabric is woven throughout Scripture. Surveying a concordance will reveal the topic's priority. We should be awed to realize that the treasured position God desired for the Israelites is actually ours today, as well. Peter calls believers "a holy priesthood," "a chosen people," "a royal priesthood" and "a

holy nation" (1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-10 NIV).

God required His people to make detailed preparations to meet Him as He descended on Mount Sinai. Moses was to consecrate them, have them wash their clothes, and tell them to avoid sexual relations. Boundaries were set; the people were also warned not to climb or even touch the mountain, or they would die (vss. 10-15).

As Moses took the Israelites out of the camp and brought them near the mountain, they experienced God's holy presence in a dramatic way (Exodus 19:16-19). In his With the Word devotional commentary, author Warren Wiersbe explains God's approach: "To impress the people with the fear of the Lord, God demonstrated His power at Sinai and warned them not to come near. It was the childhood of the nation, and the people, like children, learned from rewards and punishment."

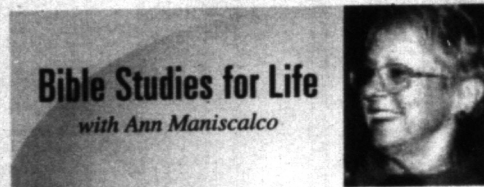
In this present age, as God's dear children, we are "not under law but under

grace" (Romans 6:14-15 NKJV), and as such, are invited to approach our Lord with confidence. However, we are still to come before Him with a pure heart, a result of confession and repentance of sin (Hebrews 4:16 and 10:22).

Truly, it's an awesome privilege to encounter God, and not something to be taken lightly. In this week's lesson, the Israelites took part in three days of preparation to come into God's presence. We're also to take adequate time for proper preparation, whether readying for church or having our devotional time at home.

Being holy obviously involves seeking purity and maintaining a righteous way of life, but the word had a two-fold meaning. Referencing Romans 12:1-2, Charles Stanley (in his Life Principles Notes) says, "Paul encourages us to be living sacrifices.... [T]he apostle also says that believers should be holy sacrifices. In Greek, this word meant 'set apart' (as in, for a special purpose)." As we seek this godly walk, and as we "worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" (Psalm 29:2 NKJV), we will avoid the lifestyle of the Frantic family. God will be honored and rich spiritual rewards will be ours.

Maniscalco is a member of LeMoyné Boulevard Church, Biloxi.



Bible Studies for Life
with Ann Maniscalco

MOORE

cont. from p. 1

as associate pastor and minister of youth from 1994-97. Before attending seminary, he served for four years as an aide to former Mississippi Congressman Gene Taylor, a Democrat.

Russell and Maria Moore are the parents of five sons: Ben, age 11; Timothy, age 11; Samuel, age seven; Jonah, age

six; and Taylor, age one.

"My Mississippi Baptist heritage is a defining aspect of my life and ministry," Russell Moore told The Baptist Record. "Friends joke that my office is an embassy of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, with Biloxi lighthouse pictures and shrimp boat signs everywhere."

"I thank God every day that I was able to be reared in Biloxi, and that Mississippi Baptists there loved me as they did, and do."

Land, who will become ERLC president emeritus, said, "I am delighted that the Holy Spirit has led the ERLC's trustees to Dr. Russell Moore as the commission's next president. Dr. Moore is a godly Christian minister, a devoted husband and father, and a convictions, committed Baptist."

"His excellent academic preparation, combined with his keen mind and his tender heart for God and His people, make him a person uniquely suited to serve our

Savior and Southern Baptists in this crucial role at such a critical moment in our nation's history."

Other Southern Baptist leaders echoing Land's confidence in Moore include his boss and president of the convention's oldest seminary, Southern Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr.; Frank Page, president of the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville; Rick Warren, senior pastor at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, Ca.; and Paige Patterson,

president of Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth.

In a congratulatory message, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, a Republican, said, "I have never read anything by Russell Moore that did not leave me with a strong impression that this was a man who could speak carefully and powerfully to the public square."

Baptist Press contributed reportage to this article.

Just for the Record



MT. PISGAH CHURCH, CARROLLTON, enjoyed an Easter egg hunt and lunch. Shown is pastor Lanny Haley with the children.



SHILOH CHURCH, SONTAG, presented its children's Easter cantata Mar. 17.



CHILDREN FROM FIRST CHURCH, EUPORA, spent a special weekend of exciting worship and fun-filled adventure as part of D-KIDS 2013. Shown are participants and leaders.



Burdette Rutland of **MISSION HILL CHURCH, WESSON**, has served his church as deacon for 65 years. He was ordained at age 18.

In other Church News:

► **First Church, Summit**, in cooperation with Two Mites Ministry and Zarephath Meeting is sponsoring a ministry to widows including music, guest speaker, and refreshments Apr. 20, 1 p.m.

► **Fellowship Church, Bellefontaine**, will host The Masters Quartet Apr. 6, 6 p.m. Love offering; food and fellowship following.

► **Richburg Church, Hattiesburg**, will host a gospel sing Apr. 12, 7 p.m. Love offering.

► **Providence Church, Choctaw County**, dedicated its new Family Life Building Mar. 24. Over 100 people attended the dedication services, which included music, a message by pastor Randle Poss, comments by others, and refreshments.

► **Military Church, Summit**, is hosting a Harvest Weekend Apr. 5 - 7. Fri. - Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun. 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship lunch and afternoon service; Buddy Keys, speaker.

► **Salem Church, Tyler town**, is hosting Jubilee Day Apr. 7. Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Carroll And Donna Roberson, leaders; love offering.

► **Riverside Church, Money**, is hosting a covered dish pot luck and singing Apr. 14. The Slaten Family, guest singers; music begins at 1 p.m.

► **First Church, Eupora**, will host The Singing Churchmen in concert Apr. 15, 7 p.m.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Liberty Hill Church, Panola Association**: Revival, Apr. 7 - 10; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Tim McMillen, speaker; Ken Lewis, music; Jay Anderson, pastor.

► **Terry's Creek Church, Pike Association**: Revival, Apr. 12 - 14; Fri. - Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon and service, 1 p.m.; Tim Parker, speaker; Tom Walsh, music; LaVerne Summerlin, interim pastor.

► **Riverside Church, Money**: Revival, Apr. 15 - 17, 7 p.m. Bryan Burson, speaker; Lynn Welch, music; Ray Mattox, pianist.

► **Society Hill Church, Oakvale**: Revival, Apr. 7 - 10; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Blake McDaniel, speaker; Jake Staten, pastor.

► **Calvary Church, Columbia**: Homecoming, Apr. 14, 10 a.m.; Robert Toney, speaker; Little River, music; Millard Moak, pastor.

► **New Hope Church, Leake Association**: Revival, Apr. 7 - 10; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Dewayne Jones, speaker; April Hogue, music; Michael Harper, pastor.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

**WOULD YOU LIKE FOR
YOUR CURRENT VEHICLE
LICENSE TAG TO LOOK
LIKE ONE OF THESE?**



**IT CAN!!!
THEY ARE NOW
AVAILABLE AT YOUR
COUNTY COURTHOUSE
TAG OFFICE!!!**

**AFTER INITIAL TAG, ONLY
\$31 PER YEAR.
-THANK YOU-**